

**NEWS RELEASE  
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## **Make The Most Out Of Your Summer Travel**

Are you ready to hit the road for that summer vacation, or just running errands around town? Either way, gas prices are higher than last year, so it pays to drive efficiently.

Driving fast doesn't save much time, especially in the city, but it does cost heavily in fuel and vehicle wear. "Going a little slower on the highway greatly reduces aerodynamic drag on your car, so you save energy," says Gina Fleischer, Information Specialist at the Utah Energy Office.

Using air conditioning can reduce drag too, and using cruise control on long trips helps maintain constant speed for more fuel savings.

Anticipating traffic conditions also saves fuel. Nearly 50 percent of the energy needed to power your vehicle in the city goes to acceleration. Unnecessary braking wastes that energy. If you coast up to red lights and don't tailgate you'll save wear on your car and as much as 10% of your fuel cost.

Avoid unnecessary idling. Idling for more than a minute burns more gas than turning off the engine and re-starting. Instead of waiting at a drive-up window, park the car and go in.

Warming up the engine for more than 15 seconds isn't necessary for most cars today. But it is vital to follow vehicle maintenance schedules, including tune-ups, oil changes and tire pressure checks.

If you can, leave your car at home – take the bus, walk, ride your bike or carpool.

For more information on energy saving tips, please contact Gina Fleischer at the Utah Energy Office, (800) 662-3633, (801) 538-4781, or visit [www.energy.utah.gov](http://www.energy.utah.gov).

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